In The Claims:

Applicant requests entrance of the following amendments to claims 1, 11 and 17. Applicant also requests that claim 4 be canceled as the subject matter of that claim is now being incorporated into independent claim 1. A marked up copy of these claims, labeled *Appendix A,* are attached with this communication.

1. (Amended) A method of substantially achieving a minimum stopping distance of a freight train consist without incurring any significant detrimental wheel slide, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) preprogramming preselected information into a computer disposed on a freight locomotive including velocity dependence of wheel to rail adhesion;

(b) determining a speed of such freight train consist;

(c) communicating a signal that is indicative of said speed determined in step (b) to such computer disposed on such freight locomotive;

(d) determining in such computer a pressure that can be applied to brake cylinders which will maintain substantially maximum adhesion between wheels being braked and rail surfaces in contact with such wheels;

(e) communicating a signal representative of such pressure determined in step (d) to a pressure control valve in fluid

communication with such brake cylinders; and

(f) using said velocity dependence of wheel to rail adhesion in maintaining a maximum pressure on such brake cylinders that will stop such train consist in a shortest possible distance while simultaneously substantially preventing wheel slide.

Delete Claim 4.

11. (Amended) An apparatus for substantially achieving a minimum stopping distance of a freight train consist without incurring any significant detrimental wheel slide, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a program having preselected information including velocity dependence of wheel to rail adhesion disposed in a computer disposed on a freight locomotive;

(b) a speed sensing means disposed on at least one of such locomotive and a freight car for determining a speed of such freight train consist;

(c) a means connected to said speed sensing means for communicating a signal that is indicative of said speed to such computer disposed on such freight locomotive, so that such program can determine a pressure that can be applied to brake cylinders which will maintain substantially maximum adhesion between wheels being braked and rail surfaces in contact with such wheels; and